Government of Saskatchewan

Annual Report 1982-83

Saskatchewan Urban Affairs

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Letters of Transmittal

The Honourable F. W. Johnson,
Lieutenant Governor,
Province of Saskatchewan

Sir,

I have the honour of submitting the annual report of the Department of Urban Affairs for the year ending March 31, 1983.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Embury,
Minister of Urban Affairs.

The Honourable Tim Embury,
Minister of Urban Affairs,
Regina, Saskatchewan

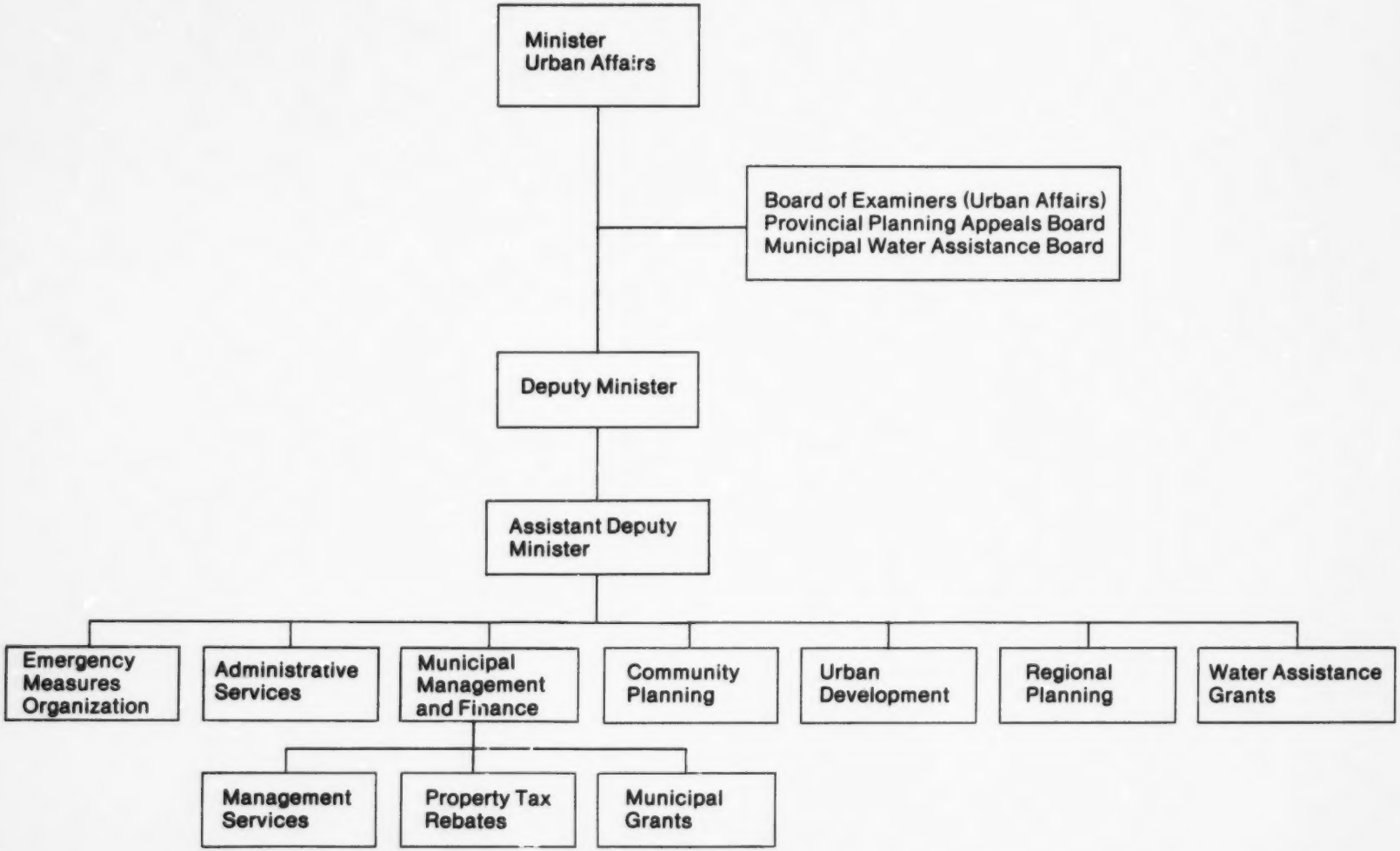
Sir,

I have the honour of submitting the annual report of the Department of Urban Affairs for the year ending March 31, 1983.

Respectfully submitted,

D. M. Innes,
Deputy Minister of Urban Affairs.

Organization Chart



Administrative Services

The Administrative Services branch is responsible for the provision of centralized services to other branches as well as provision of support services to other government agencies.

The centralized services include personnel services; accounting and estimate preparation; mail and duplicating, information and library services; purchase of equipment, supplies and stationery. The branch is also responsible for equipment, inventory, space requirements, furniture placement and CVA vehicles.

The branch also provides support services to agencies such as the Saskatchewan Assessment Authority; Saskatchewan Assessment Appeal Board; Provincial Planning Appeals Board; and Board of Examiners (Urban).

Personnel

The Personnel section is responsible for all personnel activities which include; administering personnel policies and procedures; interpreting and implementing the Collective Agreement; processing transactions and maintaining records and assisting branch managers with staffing, classification, performance evaluation, and management-employee relations.

The total number of permanent positions in the Department at March 31, 1983 was 137. The table below shows the number and distribution of positions at the end of the year.

Branch	Regina	Saskatoon	Total
Administration	24	2	26
Municipal Management and Finance			
— Management Services	10	—	10
— Municipal Grants	10	—	10
— Property Tax Rebates	28	—	28
Community Planning Services	20	5	25
Regional Planning	16	—	16
Emergency Measures Organization	4	—	4
Urban Development	9	—	9
Water Assistance	7	—	7
Saskatchewan Assessment Appeal Board	2	—	2
Total	130	7	137

There were no retirements in the department during the year.

Grant Payments

During 1982-83 a number of grant payments were made to both urban municipalities and to individual home owners and renters totalling $176,807,988. Under the various department programs available to urban municipalities, $100,268,328 was distributed to urban municipalities during the fiscal year. A total of $76,539,660 was paid out to individuals under the Property Tax Rebate programs. The table below shows these grant payments by program.

Grants to Local Authorities

Neighbourhood Improvement Program		$ 375,261
Industrial Towns		53,495
Municipal Water Assistance Board		5,200,000
Urban Revenue Sharing — General	$57,246,865	
— Ambulance	2,069,187	
— Fire	276,517	
— Recreation	520,315	60,112,884
Business Improvement Districts		232,344
Water Pollution Control Assistance		921,534
Water Development for Regional Economic and Drought Proofing		1,859,112
Meewasin Valley Authority		996,518
Wakamow Valley Authority		167,369
Community Planning Association of Canada		6,000
Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association		5,000
Urban Municipal Administration Association of Saskatchewan		1,000
Miscellaneous Grants		25,000
Intergovernmental Committee on Urban and Regional Research		10,024
Urban Drought Relief		1,352,267
Implementation of Qu'Appelle Agreement		
— Community Development Assistance		8,000
— Waste Treatment		1,631,922
Community Capital Fund		16,495,850
Lloydminster Water Supply Grant		4,650,000
Transit Grants		
Municipal	3,608,698	
Disabled	1,231,449	4,840,147
Supplementary Grants — Road Ambulance Services		351,591
Regina Rail Relocation Assistance		883,359
Urban Park Studies and Development		
Re: Prince Albert and Swift Current		56,651
City of Moose Jaw		
Re: Heritage Canada Foundation		33,000
Total		$100,268,328

Grants to Individuals

Property Improvement Grants	$ 44,624,655
Senior Citizens School Tax Rebate	23,660,631
Renters Property Tax Rebate	8,254,374
Total	$ 76,539,660
Total Grants disbursed by Urban Affairs	$176,807,988

Community Planning

The Community Planning branch's primary function is to administer The Planning and Development Act and its regulations and to provide professional and technical planning assistance to municipalities, developers, and the public on land-use matters.

The branch also administers The Municipal Expropriations Act and sections of The Urban Municipality Act related to annexations, incorporations and status changes.

The administration of these acts involves the review and recommendation of bylaws and amendments for municipal development plans, zoning, subdivision, and planned unit development bylaws; applications for alterations to urban municipal boundaries; applications for change in status of urban municipalities and incorporations; and expropriation proposals of urban lands.

The branch also reviews and issues decisions on all subdivisions in urban municipalities (except those for Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert which have been designated approving authorities), and on all subdivisions in the Qu'Appelle planning districts.

The following chart shows the workload of the branch in these areas during 1982-83:

Project	Approvals	Refusals
Municipal Development Plan Bylaws	3	–
Municipal Development Plan Amendments	2	–
Zoning Bylaws	20	–
Zoning Bylaw Amendments	267	1
Subdivision Bylaw Amendments	2	–
Planned Unit Development Bylaw Amendments	2	–
Annexations – Cities	2	–
– Towns	8	–
– Villages	14	–
Resort Village Incorporations	6	1
Status Changes	3	–
Name Change	1	–
Expropriations	3	–
Subdivision Applications	639	2
Subdivision Reapprovals	26	–
Replotting Schemes	2	–
Public Reserve – Easements	45	–
– Land Exchanges	15	–
– Leases	9	–
– New Public Reserves	55	–
– Other Matters	8	–

The branch also administers the Public Reserve and Buffer Strip Regulations under The Planning and Development Act. Public Reserve lands are owned by the Crown but may be leased to local authorities for use as school sites, parks and recreational areas or other public uses or, in some cases, sold or exchanged at the discretion of the minister. As the chart indicates, during the year 122 applications regarding Public Reserves and Buffer Strips were processed.

The branch reviews and comments on referrals from the Community Planning Services branch of Saskatchewan Rural Development, dealing with subdivision applications and other matters of intermunicipal interest within 5 km of the corporate limits of a city, 3 km of the corporate limits of a town and 2 km of the corporate limits of a village. During the year 267 referrals were processed.

The Drafting Services section of the branch prepares and updates compiled plans for each urban municipality. Copies of these maps are available to the public and other departments, agencies and organizations. The drafting section prepared new compiled plans for six communities. Revisions consisting of 328 subdivisions, 78 Master of Title Orders, 3 new maps for annexed areas and 23 street and highway changes were made to existing compiled plans. Zoning district maps were also prepared and updated; 31 new zoning maps and 23 zoning amendments were processed and work began on 80 map sheets for Moose Jaw. A number of concept plans, special map projects, and other visual aids were prepared for other sections of the branch.

At year end, the compiled plan mapping function was transferred to Central Survey and Mapping Agency in Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation. The department has also decided to amalgamate the Regional Planning and Community Planning branches to form a new Community Planning Services branch in the coming year. This branch will combine the functions of the two previous branches with an added emphasis on the development of planning policy.

Municipal Management and Finance

This division is composed of three branches and is responsible for municipal advisory services, provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements and related research activity, and administering the property tax rebate programs.

Management Services

This branch is responsible for providing advisory services to elected and appointed municipal officials throughout the province. Staff of the branch assists municipal officials and urban residents with day-to-day administrative problems and procedures relating to municipal law, accounting, and general office administration.

Advisory services staff also conducts municipal inspections and reviews the financial management procedures of municipalities. In addition it evaluates the financial position of municipalities and develops and implements uniform accounting and financial reporting procedures for municipalities.

During the year under review, work continued on upgrading the educational materials on local government procedures provided to municipal councillors and administrators. Guides were prepared on local government elections to be used by the returning officers and the deputy returning officers in conducting the local government elections in the fall of 1982.

A guide to municipal bylaw preparation and procedures was also prepared and distributed to municipal officials. Additional copies are available from the department.

The branch continued to research and review proposals to update and revise urban municipal legislation.

Municipal Grants

This branch is responsible for the policy analysis and administration of the Revenue Sharing and Community Capital Fund programs. The branch also provides information and analysis on provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements, municipal financial positions, capital expenditures, and capital financing. A more detailed report on activity undertaken under the Community Capital Fund can be found on page 16 of this report.

Revenue Sharing

Revenue sharing is an arrangement under which the provincial government transfers a part of its revenues to municipalities on a consistent basis from year to year, in accordance with an escalator index designed to increase municipal revenues as the provincial economy grows.

This program represents, with few exceptions, the total provincial contribution towards municipal operating services.

The branch's responsibility for the development and administration of the urban revenue sharing program includes the unconditional grant and the three inter-municipal programs. The branch shares responsibility with the departments of Rural Development and Finance for policy analysis of the escalator index.

During the year under review, the department established a committee consisting of the executive board of SUMA and staff of the department, to review the revenue sharing program. The pressing need for a review arose from the removal of the gasoline tax earlier in the year and the implications for the tax bases of the escalator index which determines the size of the pool.

For 1982-83 the value of the escalator was 8.3 per cent. However, additional funds were added to the urban pool to raise the year-over-year percentage change to 11.5 per cent. Total value of the urban pool was $60.1 million.

Distribution Formula

The basic, per capita, and foundation grants are unconditional and the municipality is free to use these funds according to its priorities. These grants account for approximately 95 per cent of the total pool. The inter-municipal programs are the only part of revenue sharing that are conditional.

The distribution formulae for the urban revenue sharing program are presented below:

Basic Grant

This grant is payable to all urban municipalities and is of considerable importance to very small communities. During the year under review, the basis grant was as follows:

Population	Grant
0 - 149	$1,840
150 - 299	2,450
300 or more	2,700

Per Capita Grant

Uniform per capita amount of $48.40 per resident based on the 1981 federal census.

Foundation Grant

The foundation grant is intended to equalize the ability of comparable communities to provide an average level of services. Approximately 90 per cent of urban municipalities receive a foundation grant.

Inter-Municipal Programs

Per capita grants for the provision of fire protection, road ambulance and recreation services.

Urban Revenue Sharing	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83
Unconditional	$46,674,519	$51,345,852	$57,246,865
Municipal Road Ambulance	1,499,609	1,800,527	2,069,187
Fire Protection	267,870	267,905	276,517
Recreation	477,237	496,957	520,315
Total	$48,919,235	$53,911,241	$60,112,884

Municipal Road Ambulance Program

Any urban or rural municipality is eligible for funding if it enters into a written agreement with one or more municipalities to establish a Municipal Road Ambulance District to provide ambulance service to its residents. Urban Affairs staff provided information and assistance to municipalities and ambulance boards in establishing and operating local ambulance districts. The district ambulance board is responsible for providing the ambulance service and must decide whether to contract with a private operator, hospital, community organization, or to operate the service directly.

The program was funded under revenue sharing with per capita grants provided to those municipalities participating in a road ambulance district.

As of March 31, 1983, there were 100 districts comprised of 479 urban municipalities and 294 rural municipalities.

	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83
Urban Municipalities	$1,499,609	$1,800,527	$2,069,187
Rural Municipalities	748,191	876,193	1,080,878
Total	$2,247,800	$2,676,720	$3,150,065

Ambulance Program Review

During the year the provincial government established a committee, chaired by Larry Birkbeck, MLA for Moosomin, to review ambulance service and funding. The committee consisting of staff from the departments of Urban Affairs, Rural Development, Health, and Finance, was established in September to look at all aspects of ambulance service. It was formed in response to concerns raised by ambulance operators and municipalities.

The committee received more than 40 submissions from key groups including SUMA, SARM, ambulance operators, and other health care professionals. A questionnaire was sent to all ambulance operators to gather statistical information on their operations.

As a result of the review, the committee recommended that in the next fiscal year responsibility for the ambulance program be assigned to the department of Health with a new financing formula to be developed. Future reports on this program will be found in the Annual Report for Saskatchewan Health.

Inter-Municipal Fire Protection Program

A municipality that enters into a written agreement with one or more municipalities to provide fire protection services on a co-operative basis is eligible for funding.

As of March 31, 1983, 358 urban municipalities and 263 rural municipalities were participating in the program.

Grants are calculated on the basis of $1 per capita based on the 1981 federal census up to a maximum of $10,000. Grants paid to date are as follows:

	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83
Urban Municipalities	$267,870	$267,905	$276,517
Rural Municipalities	213,560	216,943	206,945
Total	$481,430	$484,848	$483,462

Inter-Municipal Recreation Program

Municipalities entering into a written agreement with one or more municipalities to share operating and maintenance costs of recreation facilities are eligible for funding. Recreation facilities are defined in the broad sense, to include facilities for sports, arts, culture, and leisure time activities. The program does not apply to recreation facilities funded by other government agencies.

The grant is calculated on the basis of 50 per cent of actual expenditures made by a municipality with respect to an agreement, up to the maximum set out below.

A per capita grant, based on the 1981 federal census, of $1 for the first 15,000 population, 75 cents for the next 15,000, and 50 cents for the population in excess of 30,000; and a basic grant of $100 will be paid annually to each municipality in the program.

As of March 31, 1983, 294 urban municipalities and 209 rural municipalities were participating in the program.

	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83
Urban Municipalities	$477,237	$496,957	$520,315
Rural Municipalities	170,280	192,393	180,313
Total	$647,517	$689,350	$700,628

Property Tax Rebates

The Property Tax Rebates branch administers three property tax rebate programs; the Property Improvement Grant, the Senior Citizens School Tax Rebate, and the Renters Property Tax Rebate.

Property Improvement Grant

The Property Improvement Grant is provided to virtually every non-senior citizen property owner in Saskatchewan as a rebate on their property taxes. Property owners are eligible for a grant of up to one-half of the taxes paid to a maximum of $230. If an applicant owns other business property, a further rebate is possible. However, the total maximum rebate is $375 per family per year.

During the year under review, 218,926 Property Improvement Grants were disbursed to property owners for a total expenditure of $44,624,655.

Senior Citizens School Tax Rebate

The Senior Citizens School Tax Rebate is a rebate of property taxes paid by senior citizen property owners (65 and over) in Saskatchewan. In 1982, the maximum levels for the program were increased by $50 to $510. If an applicant owns other property (farm or business), a further rebate is possible. However the total maximum rebate available is $655 per family per year.

During the year under review, 77,771 Senior Citizens School Tax Rebates were disbursed to senior citizen property owners for a total expenditure of $23,660,631.

Renters Property Tax Rebates

The Renters Property Tax Rebate is paid to people who rent their principal residence. In 1982, the maximum rebate was increased by $35 to $150. During this fiscal year, 76,132 Renters Property Tax Rebates were paid to renters for a total expenditure of $8,254,374.

Regional Planning Branch

The Regional Planning branch administers the Regional Studies program and the Qu'Appelle Valley Land Use Planning program.

Regional Studies Program

A major objective of this program has been the development of land-use management strategies for the Province. During 1982-83, staff of the program continued the preparation of several research reports on specific planning issues throughout Saskatchewan. Development scenarios and infrastructure information for select areas of the province were prepared, in addition to other land-use studies to assist in the review of development proposals at the provincial and municipal level.

These land-use studies include:

- Community and Regional Infrastructure in the Lloydminster Heavy Oil Region,
- West Central Area of Saskatchewan: Regional Development Scenarios,
- Land-Use Activity Classification Manual,
- Structural Land Use Classification Manual,
- Key Characteristics for Effective Intermunicipal Planning Systems

Staff of the branch represented the department on the Environment Review Panel that reviews major development proposals to determine their environmental impact.

In conjunction with the Community Planning branch, staff of the Regional Studies program was also responsible for preparing the necessary background information to assist in the preparation of the new Planning and Development Act. A series of publications to assist with developing policy alternatives was prepared for review by various government departments, interest groups, and the general public. The consultative process on the new Act involved a number of meetings to exchange information and acquire feedback on the suggested optional provisions of the new legislation.

The branch continued to provide financial assistance to the Prince Albert District Planning Commission to assist with intermunicipal planning.

Qu'Appelle Valley Land Use Planning Program

The Qu'Appelle Land Use Planning program is part of the Canada-Saskatchewan Subsidiary Qu'Appelle Agreement. The program's objective is to achieve long-term land-use management in the valley. The current Qu'Appelle Valley Special Planning Areas (SPA's) include part or all of 40 urban and rural municipalities along the valley.

The SPA's were established in 1977 for an interim period under the provisions of The Planning and Development Act to allow the formulation and implementation of comprehensive land-use policies.

A major objective of the Qu'Appelle Valley Land Use Planning program for 1982-83 was to assist the six SPA commissions and 40 involved municipalities in identifying the best possible methods of continued land use planning administration in the valley after the interim SPA phase ended in June, 1982.

For this purpose, branch staff undertook a very intensive consultation process with the six commissions and the involved municipalities. A consensus was finally reached whereby the present SPA structure was to be converted into a more permanent structure of local planning districts, with full provincial assistance to continue land-use planning administration. The new "planning district" structure is unique because its planning commission is empowered to undertake land-use planning and development controls directly. Under the authority of the Planning and Development Act, the necessary ministerial orders to convert the existing SPA's into such planning districts were approved in January, 1983.

The Qu'Appelle Land Use Planning staff also assisted the local planning commissions to deal with a total of 642 development applications in the valley. On behalf of the commissions, the staff circulated 17 planning documents on land use planning in the valley, to different government agencies for comments. Commissions were also assisted in dealing with a number of major policy concerns, raised by private groups about the draft land-use policies.

At year end the commissions were in the process of revising their land-use policies in light of the public input and comments received from different government agencies. Finalization, adoption, and approval of these policies is expected in the next year.

Urban Development

This branch is responsible for administering the following conditional grant programs:

- Main Street Development program
- Industrial Towns Assistance program
- Municipal Transit Assistance and Transit for the Disabled programs; and
- Urban Parks program.

The branch is also involved in projects relating to downtown revitalization, urban park studies, and rail relocation.

Main Street Development Program

The objective of this program was to encourage the revitalization of main street business districts through incentive grants to municipal councils. It was jointly administered by the departments or Urban Affairs and Industry and Commerce. Urban Affairs provided a per capita grant to business improvement districts (BIDs) to make improvements to pubic properties.

During 1982-83, the final year of the program, Urban Affairs approved BID grants for 54 communities totalling $232,344. As a result of the program more than $518,000 was spent on public area improvements during the year. Conceptual planning and design assistance was provided to five communities.

Industrial Towns Assistance

Towns and villages that require a rapid and major expansion of their basic infrastructure to accommodate a significant population increase as a result of a specific industry locating in or near their community are eligible for special financial and administrative assistance under this program.

The Town of Coronach received $35,000 in 1982-83 to help the town cope with the impact of the SPC Poplar River power plant and mine. The grants assist the town in retiring debenture debt on water and sewer infrastructure. In addition the town received a loan of $417,572 to provide interim financing for a pipeline to expand the capacity of its water supply system.

Urban Transit

This branch administers two programs that provide financial assistance for urban transit — the Municipal Transit Assistance program and Transit for the Disabled program.

Under the Municipal Transit Assistance program more than $3.6 million was paid in 1982-83 to seven cities and two towns to assist with the operation of public transit and the cost of improvements to transit systems.

A total of 38 communities were participating in the Transit for the Disabled program by the end of 1982-83, an increase of eight communities over last year. More than $1.2 million was paid to municipalities as part of this program in 1982-83. This included $375,000 to cover the province's 75 per cent contribution to the cost of acquiring 14 new wheelchair lift-equipped buses and vans to provide transit services for the disabled and elderly.

Urban Parks

The branch also administers the Province's financial participation in the Meewasin Valley Authority in Saskatoon and the Wakamow Valley Authority in Moose Jaw. In addition to the annual statutory funding, a grant of $102,615 was provided to the Meewasin Authority for land acquisition and a $50,000 grant was given to the Wakamow Authority as start-up capital.

During 1982-83, the branch cost-shared the completion of Little Red River Study, an urban park study with the City of Prince Albert. The study examined the potential park and related uses of the river edge and forested area north of Prince Albert. In addition the branch cost-shared an urban park study with the City of Swift Current. It is intended to update the city's long term parks development plans, with the focus on the Swift Current Creek.

Rail Relocation

During the year the branch was actively involved in assisting the City of Regina with its formal application to the Canadian Transport Commission (CTC) for the Railway Relocation project. The department contributed more than $880,000 toward the preparation of updated urban development, financial and transportation plans required in support of the application.

Downtown Revitalization

During the year the branch continued to assist with downtown revitalization projects in response to situations or expressions of interest from communities. It is expected that a joint provincial/municipal project agreement between the Province and City of Saskatoon will be executed in the next fiscal year which will deal with land assembly in the South Downtown Area of the city.

Water Assistance Grants

The Water Assistance Grants branch is responsible for administering the following programs:

- Municipal Water Assistance
- Urban Drought
- Water Pollution Control Assistance

and in co-operation with the federal-provincial administer these federal-provincial programs:

- Qu'Appelle Implementation Agreement
- Agricultural Service Centres Agreement
- Canada-Saskatchewan Interim Subsidiary Agreement on Water Development

The branch also distributes the National Building Code to municipalities and reviews building bylaws submitted by municipalities.

Municipal Water Assistance

In accordance with The Municipal Water Assistance Act, the Municipal Water Assistance Board grants financial assistance for the installation or extension of water or sewerage systems in towns and villages, or in rural municipalities on behalf of hamlets.

Grants are provided to cover 50 per cent of the eligible costs which are defined to be those costs of water and sewage facilities that cannot be assessed under The Local Improvements Act. Interim financing charges are considered eligible costs. Governing regulations allow for a cumulative total grant of $300,000 to municipalities for capital water and sewage works. A total of $300,000 is also available to each municipality for water supply pipelines in excess of one mile in length.

In the year under review, the Board met four times and approved grants totalling $5.2 million for 61 towns, 70 villages and 15 hamlets. The table shows the breakdown of grants approved during the year.

	Number	Grants
Towns	61	$3,725,767
Villages	70	1,306,821
R.M.'s	15	167,412
	146	$5,200,000

The following table provides a summary of cumulative grants paid to March 31, 1983:

	Total to March 31, 1982	1982-83	Total to March 31, 1983
Lloydminster	$ 693,404	$864,976	$1,558,380
Moose Jaw	14,100	–	14,100
North Battleford	48,152	–	48,152
Prince Albert	179,676	–	179,676
Regina	2,367,829	56,554	2,424,387
Saskatoon	500,000	–	500,000
Swift Current	141,546	–	141,546
Yorkton	314,583	–	314,583
	$4,259,290	$921,534	$5,180,824

Urban Drought Relief

Grants totalling $1,352,267 were disbursed during the year to 52 municipalities for water supply improvement to reduce drought-related water supply shortages. These grants are calculated at 50 per cent of project costs. This was the final year for grants payments and completed construction on projects approved in the previous two years.

Water Pollution Control Assistance

Under the jurisdiction of The Water Pollution Control Assistance Act the branch provides financial assistance for a portion of the capital cost of wastewater treatment works in cities. Those cities not eligible to receive a grant under the Department of Regional Economic Expansion Act (federal) regarding Agricultural Service Centres can receive a grant for 10 per cent of the cost of primary and secondary works. All cities can receive a grant of 15 per cent of the capital costs of advanced wastewater treatment works.

During the year the cities of Regina and Lloydminster received grants under this Act. Regina received $56,558 for primary sewage works while Lloydminster received $864,976 for construction of secondary wastewater treatment and disposal facilities.

Qu'Appelle Wastewater Treatment

As part of the federal-provincial Qu'Appelle Implementation Agreement, municipalities in the Qu'Appelle Valley drainage system are eligible to receive funding for construction of facilities that reduce nutrient-loading of sewage disposed in the system and improve the environment of the drainage basin. In 1982-83, a total of $1,631,921 was paid to Moose Jaw, Fort Qu'Appelle, Katepwa Beach and Regina Beach for construction of facilities.

Agricultural Service Centres Agreement

This program was jointly administered by Saskatchewan Urban Affairs and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA). The program provided assistance to communities of more than 2,000 in population (except Regina and Saskatoon) undertaking water and sewer projects. A total of $28 million was disbursed to 26 urban centres before the program expired March 31, 1983.

Interim Subsidiary Agreement on Water Development

Under this program certain designated municipalities in the province can receive assistance for water supply facilities. PFRA constructs the projects and pays 50 per cent of the cost of construction. During the year, the province paid $1,859,111 to projects underway in Weyburn and Kipling.

Other Activities

During the year under review, a special Cabinet Committee on Water Concerns was established to study water issues throughout the province. The Committee, chaired by the Minister of Urban Affairs, held a series of public hearings in urban centres to hear the concerns of local government organizations, special interest groups and individuals. It is now preparing a report on water after reviewing the more than 200 briefs received. This will be key in the development of plans for the reorganization of all water-related programs.

The branch also participated in the Steering Committee that conducted the Regina-Moose Jaw Long Term Water Supply Study. A payment of $34,208 was provided as a 50 per cent contribution towards water quality testing and technical assistance conducted by the Saskatchewan Research Council. The remaining 50 per cent was paid by the two cities.

A special grant of $4,562,000 was awarded to the City of Lloydminster for construction of a water supply project. Due to very rapid growth as a result of heavy oil development Lloydminster had to make major changes regarding its water supply.

Board of Examiners (Urban Affairs)

The Board of Examiners (Urban Affairs), appointed under the provisions of The Department of Urban Affairs Act, is responsible for the issuance of certificates of qualification to clerks, treasurers and secretary-treasurers of urban municipalities and to other persons who qualify for these offices.

The board consists of three members. One member, who serves as chairman, is appointed from the staff of the Department of Urban Affairs. One nominee is from the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association and one nominee from the Urban Municipal Administrators Association.

As at March 31, 1983, the members of the board were:

D. W. Bennett, Chairman

K. Green, Rosetown, representing UMAA

F. Pederson, Wynyard, representing SUMA

The board secretary is Ms. C. Schwindt of the Department of Urban Affairs.

During the year three meetings were held at which the following certificates were granted:

3 Urban "Superior A" Certificate; no applications denied;
15 Urban "A" Certificates; 2 applications denied;
3 Urban "B" Certificates; no applications denied;
24 Urban "C" Certificates; 1 application denied.

Community Capital Fund Program

The Community Capital Fund Program is a five-year program which commenced on April 1, 1980. The purpose of the program, established under The Community Capital Fund Program Act is to assist municipalities with the acquisition or construction of capital works or the purchase of equipment.

All cities, towns, villages, and rural municipalities, on behalf of hamlets within their boundaries, are eligible to receive a maximum of $100 per capita over the term of the program.

The grant can cover up to 60 per cent of the eligible cost of a specific project, but cannot exceed the municipality's share of the project cost. On projects where additional assistance is received from other federal and provincial grant programs, total grants including the Community Capital Fund Program grant, cannot exceed 75 per cent of a project's cost.

In addition to providing unconditional capital financial assistance to municipalities, the program is designed to encourage long-term capital planning by communities. In this way a municipality can choose the projects it wishes to undertake and determine its priorities and source of financing.

Pursuant to The Community Capital Fund Program Act, all applications must be reviewed by a committee and recommendations made to the Minister for approval or denial of the project applications.

During the first three years of the program, grants totalling $44,160,128 were distributed among the following categories of municipalities:

	Number of Municipalities		Number of Projects		Grant Payments	
Class of Municipality	**1981-82**	**1982-83**	**1981-82**	**1982-83**	**1981-82**	**1982-83**
Cities	11	12	53	56	$ 8,824,777	$11,142,054
Towns	96	108	219	201	5,104,258	3,673,653
Villages	156	178	278	287	1,942,437	1,566,526
R.M. (hamlets)	40	32	52	38	193,549	113,618
	303	330	602	582	$16,076,021	$16,495,851

The purposes for which the Community Capital Fund Program money has been utilized by municipalities in the first three years of the program are listed below:

Project Type	1981-82	(%)	1982-83	(%)	Cumulative Total	(%)
General Government Services (including municipal office buildings and equipment)	$ 1,935,198	(12.0)	$ 2,344,829	(14.2)	$ 5,249,411	(11.9)
Protective Services (including firefighting and police facilities and equipment)	1,617,352	(9.7)	1,594,090	(9.7)	3,964,579	(9.0)
Transportation Services (including street and sidewalk improvements, bridges, parking, airport and buses)	5,242,696	(32.6)	6,757,154	(41.0)	17,012,936	(38.5)
Environmental Health Services (including water, sewage, and waste disposal)	4,647,459	(28.9)	3,137,163	(19.0)	9,630,933	(21.8)
Public Health and Welfare (including hospital facilities and health clinics)	—	(0)	—	(0)	324,827	(.7)
Environmental Development Services (including trailer courts and senior citizens' housing)	7,564	(.1)	32,205	(.2)	55,536	(.1)
Recreational and Cultural Services (including recreational and cultural facilities, rinks, libraries, etc.)	2,614,752	(16.3)	2,630,410	(15.9)	7,921,905	(17.9)
Totals	$16,065,021*	(100.0)*	$16,495,851*	(100.0)*	$44,160,128*	(100.0)*

* figures may not total exactly due to rounding

Emergency Measures Organization

The general objective of the Emergency Measures Organization is to develop overall plans to ensure the survival and recovery of Saskatchewan residents and their communities from any emergency or disaster and to ensure provincial planning is compatible with national emergency planning.

In the 1982-83 fiscal year, work began on developing new legislation for dangerous goods, on revitalizing the communities program, and on negotiating with the federal government for a new Joint Emergency Planning program (JEPP).

Transportation of Dangerous Goods Legislation

Although responsibility for the issue of Transportation of Dangerous Goods was officially assumed by Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation during the year, EMO staff assisted in developing the legislation. The Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act is expected to be introduced in the legislature in the next fiscal year.

Regarding the issue of response to a hazardous materials incident, there are two response programs in place. Firstly, the provincial government program is activated when an EMO staff member contacts the key emergency response planners designated by each department, crown corporation, and agency. The second response program is at the local municipal level and that is to train firefighters to respond to a hazardous materials incident. EMO staff is working with the provincial fire commissioner and Emergency Planning Canada to develop such a training course for firefighters.

Weather Watch Program

EMO has assisted the Atmospheric Environment Service of the federal government with its Severe Weather Watch program by recruiting volunteers in rural areas throughout the province. Although AES has equipment located throughout the province, it cannot monitor the entire province. More than 150 people in rural areas throughout the province have volunteered to participate by reporting severe weather conditions to their regional weather office or the AES office in Winnipeg. As a result of these reports from volunteers, AES can have a more accurate description of the weather patterns and issue an alert or warning if warranted so that people in the path of a storm can minimize any damage or injury.

Training Courses

During the year under review 94 people attended federally-sponsored courses in Ottawa. Some of the courses offered include:

Mayors and Elected Officials — 7

Transportation of Dangerous Goods — 17

Community Emergency Planning (Health) — 30

Community Emergency Planning (Social Services) — 9

Plans and Operations — 17

Public Information Seminar — 5

Communications — 2

Protection of Public Symposium — 4

Exercise Design — 1

Emergency Operations Exercise — 2

During the year, the three Regina hospitals participated in a two-day training course on the deployment of emergency hospitals. The course was developed by the South Saskatchewan Trauma, Triage and Transfer Committee and Emergency Health Services branch of Saskatchewan Health. EMO brought in training personnel from the Alberta Disaster Services. The 200-bed hospitals, provided to the province by Health and Welfare Canada, are located in Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Swift Current, North Battleford, Prince Albert and Yorkton in storage and ready for use in the event of an emergency.

Also in the area of training, EMO has worked with the Saskatchewan Health Care Association to develop a series of presentations on Hospital Disaster Planning. The Hospital Standards Branch of Saskatchewan has also done some work in this area.

Provincial Planning Appeals Board

The Provincial Planning Appeals Board is required to hear and determine appeals in all cases where provision for appeals is made under The Planning and Development Act, or by an order or regulation made under the Act, or by a bylaw passed by a council under that Act, and where provision for appeals to the board is made under any other Act. The board may also consider and make recommendations on any matters that may be referred to it by the minister.

The following are members of the board:

H. E. Wellman, Saskatoon	— Chairman
M. C. Butterfield, Swift Current	— Member
Arthur Hosie, Regina	— Member
Barrie Bratt, Regina	— Member
George Richardson, Regina	— Member
Russell Pankiw, Regina	— Member
Bruce Pultz, Saskatoon	— Member
P. A. Clark, Regina	— Secretary

During the year ended March 31, 1983, the board held 12 meetings, at which a total of 31 appeals were heard, as follows:

	Appeals Heard	Appeals Granted	Appeals Denied
Cities	16	5	11
Towns	1	1	—
Villages	2	1	1
*Rural Municipalities	12	9	2

* One appeal was withdrawn after being heard.